

Part B

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – Geologic Data – Dave Soller

A-16 Lead

1. Program/Activity Name: **Geologic Data Subcommittee**
2. What are the specific federal programs this data supports? **The geologic spatial data theme includes all geologic mapping information and related geoscience spatial data (including associated geophysical, geochemical, geochronologic, and paleontologic data) that can contribute to the National Geologic Map Database as pursuant to Public Law-148.**
1. Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers and support agency missions? **Geologic map information benefits agency customers by serving as a primary database for virtually all applied and basic earth-science investigations, including: (a) exploration for and development of mineral, energy, and water resources; (b) screening and characterizing sites for toxic and nuclear waste disposal; (c) land use evaluation and planning for environmental protection; (d) earthquake hazards reduction; (e) predicting volcanic hazards; (f) design and construction of infrastructure requirements such as utility lifelines, transportation corridors, and surface-water impoundments; (g) reducing losses from landslides and other ground failures; (h) mitigating effects of coastal and stream erosion; and (i) siting of critical facilities. Further, geologic map information supports the core mission of the USGS and other Federal agencies that use earth-science data (e.g. the NPS, USFS), by providing the Earth framework needed for the many research, monitoring, and applications-oriented projects through which these agencies serve societal needs.**
2. Charter/Plan: Do you have a current charter or plan for collection? If so - please describe (include how recently the charter/plan was implemented and whether it is in need of update). **The principal current charter for collection of the geologic map information and the standardization of that information, is contained within the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Action of 1999 (<http://ncgmp.usgs.gov/info/ngmact99.html>). This plan must be reauthorized by 2005.**
3. Metadata Status: Is metadata discoverable and served through the NSDI Clearinghouse? What percentage of this theme's data has metadata and is in a Clearinghouse node? **According to policy, all newly released USGS geologic map products are in digital format and therefore, provide metadata that is made available on the USGS Geology Clearinghouse node (<http://geo-nsdi.er.usgs.gov/>). Although only a fraction of geologic map information is in digital form and therefore documented with metadata, the geoscience community is actively converting analog (paper) geologic maps in digital format, and documenting this with appropriate metadata.**
4. Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards? **The Subcommittee has approved development of two FGDC standards: 1) geologic map symbolization, and 2) geologic data model. The map symbolization standard has completed the Public Review process and is being revised for approval as a FGDC standard, in 2004. Under the aegis of the North American Data Model Steering Committee (NADMSC), the geologic data model standard is being developed and prototyped by various state, federal and foreign geological surveys, and it is anticipated that a standard conceptual data model will be proposed to the FGDC. Through its Executive Secretary, the Subcommittee maintains close contact with the NADMSC. The NADMSC and others also are**

developing standard classification standards for earth materials, and these standards also will be submitted to the Subcommittee for their consideration.

5. Progress: List FY 2001/2002/2003 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible). **The Public Review draft of the geologic map symbolization standard has been evaluated and is under revision. Completion of this task and submittal to the Geologic Data Subcommittee is anticipated by late 2003; FGDC approval is expected in 2004. The proposal for a geologic data model was revised and approved by the Subcommittee; this revision was required by formation of the North American Data Model Steering Committee and its technical capability to develop this standard on behalf of the FGDC and others. The Subcommittee does not actively solicit or engage in standards development; rather, standards that the community deems necessary tend to evolve within the technical entities where geologic research and map production is conducted (e.g., at the USGS) and, when mature, are forwarded to the Subcommittee for consideration.**
6. Policy: Do you have a formal agency policy in place for full and open access or data sharing? **Yes** Are you able to fulfill this policy and provide public access with your current agency financial resources as allocated or are you in pursuit of collaborative federal partnerships to support data access? **Please note answer to question #11. E-Gov in the USGS Agency Response.**
7. Are there areas or issues regarding lead responsibilities for spatial data themes that require attention, or lessons-learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe. **No issues are noteworthy at this time.**